

Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m., March 13, 2019
Big Bend GMD5
Stafford, KS

Members Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Berry Bortz (Chair)	Preston, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	Yes
Keith Miller (Vice-Chair)	Barton Co., KS	Agriculture 3	2019	no
Jay Dill	Kinsley, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2021	Yes
Roy Eckert	Pratt, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2019	Yes
Daniel Filbert	Macksville, KS	Agriculture 2	2021	no
Mark Fincham	Pratt, KS	Groundwater Irrigation	2019	Yes
Orrin Feril	Stafford, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Yes
John Haas	Larned, KS	At Large Public 2	2019	Yes
Jeremiah Hobbs	La Crosse, KS	Watershed Protection	2019	Yes
Jeff Holste	Burdett, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2021	Yes
Kendall Francis	Great Bend, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Tom Turner	St. John, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	Yes
Taggart Wall	Sterling, KS	Public Water Supply 4	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Justin Vosburgh	WaterPACK
Stuart Briggsrand	
Diane Knowles	KWO

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Berry Bortz welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. Introductions were made. Kendal Francis was welcomed to his first meeting since being appointed by KWA.

Approval of Agenda - Agenda was accepted as presented.

Regional Advisory Committee Approval of past meeting notes

Motion: RAC accept the meeting notes from October 2018 as presented. Tom Turner made the motion, Jeremiah Hobbs seconded. The motion carried.

Membership Drive

Diane reported that in addition to Kendal Francis being appointed by KWA for the Public Water Supply other membership changes will be occurring. Taggart Wall will be moving out of the region, so his position will be vacant May 1. She noted that seven others have terms that expire June 30, 2019. Expire; Berry Bortz (Ag cc) , Keith Miller (Ag 2), Roy Eckert (PWS3), Mark Fincham (groundwater irrigation), John Haas (At Large 2), Jeremiah Hobbs (Watershed Protection) and Kendal Francis (PWS). Diane provided a handout and summarized the process noting that current and new members must have applications in by May 31, 2019 in order for the KWA committee to review in June and provide recommendations to the full authority in July.

Jeremiah noted he has referred conservation district personnel interested in RAC membership to Diane. Diane reported she has three applications from conservation district managers and has provided information to another.

Discussion also occurred on KWA appointments being processed by the governor's office including the chairman of KWA. The appointment of new RAC chairpersons will be made after the new appointments of RAC members by the KWA chairman.

Kansas Water Authority (KWA)

Berry provided a summary of the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meeting in Wichita, December 19th where budget prioritization occurred as well as discussion of the passage and contents of the 2018 Farm Bill. The conservation portion of the farm bill includes some provisions Kansas hopes to use such as CREP dryland farming option. Any CREP to aid in the Rattlesnake Creek issue will require funds for a non-federal match in order to retire water. A reduction of 4000 acre-feet of water use is estimated to be needed in addition to other adjustments to water management to address the impairment.

The January KWA meeting included the legislative visits. January Legislative visits: 70 legislators scheduled appointments with KWA and RAC teams (28 people). Berry reported meeting with five legislators as part of this effort. RAC members had further discussion on methods to get the attention of legislators, one key to being remembered is to make a personal connection with the legislator and their key staff as well as providing short, concise descriptions of request to the legislator.

Berry also reported that the KWA heard from Lt. Governor Lynn Rogers that patience is needed until funds are available to address the water issues.

Berry also noted the Missouri RAC request to KWA for their project. This was discussed as an example to consider for the Great Bend Prairie RAC to further the regions issues and projects.

Regional Activities

Farm Bill/CREP: To complete the earlier discussion, Diane added that preparing to apply for CREP in the Rattlesnake has been attempted through meetings with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and discussions of the pros and cons of expanding the Upper Ark CREP to include the Rattlesnake or a new CREP. USDA must develop rules and regulations to address the new farm bill components for conservation to allow Kansas to consider the best way to proceed. Mike Beam, Interim Secretary of Agriculture has reported an additional productive session with FSA about CREP.

Tom Turner reported on his interaction to gain support of a CREP from Pheasants Forever.

Action Plan Updates

Kansas Grazing Lands: Diane noted that the Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition applied for grant to add staff for technical assistance on ranch land management to address invasive species among other things. Titled "Building Technical Range Planning Assistance Capacity CCGA Proposal" expect to reduce backlog of grazing management plans and wildlife conservation plans for NRCS. This will include support of ongoing efforts to address invasive species. KWO provided a letter of support.

KBS Habitat and Conservation: Kansas Biological Survey and Ducks Unlimited, have also applied for a grant from USDA, "Building Capacity for Habitat and Water Conservation in the Rattlesnake Watershed". This proposes to

evaluate opportunities for conservation, identify barriers to conservation and reach out to stakeholders (education). KWO provided a letter of support.

Feed Wheat: Berry related a conversation on the Feed Wheat Project with KDA Secretary Beam, who seemed interested. RAC members discussed the possible interest of Midwest Feeders and the need to make it an innovative project rather than proprietary. Discussion then considered how best to reach out, the appropriate role of the RAC and KWA involvement. RAC intention is to proceed, keeping KWA informed. If needed a letter may be developed by the RAC requesting KDA assistance.

Motion: RAC supports follow up with KDA on a Feed Wheat study including obtaining a point of contact(s) for coordination.

Tom Turner made the motion, seconded by Jay Dill. Motion carried.

Sustainability Goal: Regional Goal to achieve sustainability was discussed in light of tabled discussion at the October 2018 RAC meeting and recent GMD5 tabling of the sustainability run of their groundwater model.

Points made concerning direction on the goal included that the high decline areas are not affected by the LEMA; the LEMA proposal of 2/21/19 is intended to address the impairment issue, not the overall sustainability of the aquifer; the CREP program development should continue; and the continued need to provide irrigators the tools to figure out how each can achieve water use reductions.

Motion: Table all actions on the sustainability goal until new data is available from the GMD5 model sustainability run. Kendal Francis made the motion, seconded by Mark Fincham. Motion carried.

Standard Operating Procedure: The need for a repeatable permanent process to implement action plans for all regional goals across the state over time was emphasized.

Motion: to send a message to KWA to insist on development of an implementation process for regional goal implementation and accountability. Orrin Feril made the motion, Jeff Holste seconded. Motion carried.

Taggart will draft another letter concerning the SOP for KWA.

Updates on Regional Water Issues if any

R9 Transfer/Hays issue: Jay Dill provided a letter to GMD5 from the Mid Ark Sub basin group concerning the quantity of water being considered for the R9 water move to Hays and Russell. The group stance is that it should not exceed sustainable yield of the local aquifer. It suggests GMD5 ensure their recommendations to DWR have been dealt with to the satisfaction of GMD5.

Orrin reported the master order has been completed by the chief engineer so is under review by the KDA legal department and city of Hays. He noted that some of the GMD5 recommendations have been addressed.

Educational Presentation

A quick review of the modified (Berry and Orrin) presentation occurred. Major change still needed is improved graphic to show trends due to aquifer responses and year to year variability.

Diane will adjust as discussed and send everyone the PowerPoint with the added economic and hydrograph information.

Other Business

Agency Reports not already covered - none

Public Comments- none

Messages to KWA (if any) –none

Upcoming meetings of interest

Kansas Water Authority- April 18, Abilene and July 30-31 in Goodland

GBP RAC next meeting to be a conference call to discuss the KWA budget (when developed). Tentatively May 30 or 31 at 7 am

Governor's Water Conference – November 7-8, 2019 in Wichita

Adjourn